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NORTH-AMERICAN REVIEW

AND

MISCELLANEOUS JOURNAL.

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The generall historie of Virginia, New England and the Summer Isles, with the names of the adventurers, planters, and governours, from their first beginning ano. 1584, to this present 1626; with the proceedings of those several colonies, and the accidents that befell them in all their journeyes and discoveries. Also, the maps and descriptions of all those countryes, their commodities, people, government, customes, and religion yet knowne. Divided into sixe Bookes. By Captaine John Smith, sometymes Governour in those countryes, and Admirall of New England. London, printed by I. D. and I. H. for Michael Sparkes, 1626. Folio, pp. 248.

It would perhaps be difficult to find any individual who experienced more gallant adventures, and daring enterprises, of a highly romantick character in various countries, than the author of this volume. His life, without any fictitious additions, might easily be taken for a mere romance. He appears to have possessed many great qualities, and to have been deficient in nothing but that mean cunning and sordid spirit, by the aid of which, inferiour

men were able to thwart his views, and deprive him of those stations and rewards, which his services amply merited. He was one of the earliest and most ardent of those who undertook the settlement of Virginia; his bravery and capacity more than once saved that infant colony from destruction, and kept the enterprise from being abandoned for several years, though the absurdity of the schemes, and the profligacy, folly, and dishonesty of those who were to execute them, exposed the colony for many years to every calamity, and often brought it to the brink of ruin. His services availed him little, and after being defrauded of all his rights, he gave up the Virginia undertaking, and exerted himself to commence a new one without that patent. He made great efforts to induce a company to settle New-England, which indeed was commenced, but made but little progress before his death.

This history seems to be a compilation. At the end of most of the chapters, it is said, that they were written by this or that person, who had been in Virginia, and comparatively a small portion of the work seems to have been composed by Smith himself. It contains a very minute account of the first settlement of Virginia, and also of that of Bermuda, and of the first four or five years of the Plymouth colony. We have, perhaps, a more detailed and accurate statement of every circumstance relating to the first settlement of Virginia and New-England, than can be found of any of the other States, even of those which have been recent establishments. The characters of those who commenced these two primitive colonies, and the course they pursued, were extremely opposite. This work, from which a few extracts will be made, is very scarce and valuable: the copy made use of, belongs to the Massachusetts Historical Society; its plates and engravings contribute to make it a curious article for the bibliographer, and one of the circumstances that he would remark in this copy, is the names of the owners in one of the blank pages for the last 130 years. Following the dedication are ten copies of verses, from various friends, as was the practice of that period. Several of these compliments are from men of eminence; and are more remarkable for quaintness and various conceits, such as arranging the verses to form dif-

ferent figures, than for poetry. One of them may be taken as a specimen.

“ Thomas Macarnesse to his worthy friend and countryman, Captaine John Smith.

“ Who *loues* to *liue* at home, yet *looke* abroad,
And *know* both *passen* and *unpassen* road,
The prime plantation of an vnknowne shore,
The *men*, the *manners*, *fruitfulnessse*, and *store* :
Read but this little booke and then confesse,
The *lesse* thou *lik'st* and *lou'st*, thou *liu'st* the *lesse*.

“ He writ it with great labour for thy good,
'Twice over, now in *paper*, 'fore in *blood* ;
It cost him deare, both paines without an ayme,
Of *private* profit, for thy *publicke* gaine.
That thou mightst *read* and *know* and safely *see*
What he by *practice*, thou by *theoree*.

“ *Commend* him for his loyall loving heart,
Or else *come mend* him, and take thou his part.”

As there are but few books relating to America, so ancient as this, and as no readers will ever follow us through these examinations, save those happy few, who have a true relish for this kind of reading ; and who know how to appreciate those curious volumes, which a profane wit said, “ were now only rare, because they were always worthless ;” we may therefore cite another copy of verses, which is prefixed to the account of New-England. There is some curious prophecy in these lines, and it excites reflection to perceive how differently the Spaniards were considered in those days and our own.

“ To his friend Captaine Smith, upon his description of New England.

“ Sir, your relations I have read : which shew,
There's reason I should honour *them* and *you* :
And if their meaning I have understood,
I dare to censure thus : your *project's* good ;
And may, (if follow'd,) doubtlesse quit the paine,
With honour, pleasure, and a trebble gaine ;
Beside the benefit that shall arise
To make more happy our posterities.

“ For would we daigne to spare, though ’twere no more,
 Than what ore-fils and surfets us in store,
 To order *Nature’s* fruitfulnessse awhile,
 In that rude *Garden*, you *New England* stile;
 With present good, there’s hope in after daies,
 Thence to repair what *Time* and *Pride* decaies
 In this rich Kingdome. And the spacious *West*
 Being still more with English blood possest,
 The proud *Iberians* shall not rule those seas
 To check our ships from sailing where they please;
 Nor future times make any forraine power,
 Become so great to force a bound to *our*.

“ Much good my mind foretells would follow hence.
 With little labour and with lesse expence.
 Thriue therefore thy *Designe* who ere enuy :
England may ioy in *England’s* colony
Virginia seeke her Virgin sisters good,
 Be blessed in such happy neighbourhood :
 Or whatso’er fate pleaseth to permit,
 Be thou still honour’d for first mouing it.

“ GEORGE WITHER, *e societate Lincol.*”

The author of these lines was a man of learning, and wrote some curious works. Some of these have lately been reprinted, as rarities in England.

In describing the Indians of Virginia, he gives an account of their dress, of which the following is a part:—“ In each eare they have commonly three great holes, whereat they hang chaines, bracelets, or copper. Some of their men wear in those holes, a small greene and yellow coloured snake, neare half a yard in length, which crawling and lapping itselfe about his necke, often times familiarly would kiss his lips. Others wear a dead rat, tyed by the taile. Some on their heads wear the wing of a bird, or some large feather with a Rattell. Those Rattells are somewhat like the shape of a Rapier, but lesse, which they take from the taile of a snake. Many have the whole skinne of a Hawke or some strange foule, stuffed with the wings abroad. Others a broad peece of copper, and some the hand of an enemy dried. Their heads and shoulders are painted red with the roote *Pocone*, trayed to powder, mixed with oyle, this they hold in sommer to preserve them from the heate, and in winter from the cold. Many other formes of paint-

ings they use ; but he is the most gallant who is the most monstrous to behold.”

He describes their manner of burying the dead. By this it appears, that the mummy discovered in the cavern of Kentucky, and recently exhibited in our cities, was the body of some common individual which has been preserved merely by the qualities of the place in which it was found. The bodies of their kings were kept in their temples : “ Their bodies are first bowelled, then dryed upon hurdles till they be very dry, and so about most of their joynts and necke they hang bracelets, or chaines of copper, pearle, and such like, as they vse to weare, their inwards they stuffe with copper beads, hatchets and such trash. They lappe them very carefully in white skins, and so rowle them in mats for their winding sheets. And in the tombe, which is an arch made of matts, they lay them orderly. What remaineth of this kinde of wealth their kings have, they set at their feet in baskets. These temples and bodies are kept by their priests. For their ordinary burials, they dig a deepe hole in the earth with sharp stakes, and the corpse being lapped in skins and mats with their iewels, they lay vpon stickes on the ground, and so couer them with earth. The buriall ended, the women being painted all their faces with black cole and oyle, doe sit twenty-foure houres in the houses mourning and lamenting by turnes, with such yelling and howling, as may expresse their great passions.”

At the conclusion of his description of Virginia, he tells us the state of the colony when he left it, and the rewards he had received, for his long services. “ In the year 1609, about Michaelmas, I left the countrey, as is formerly related, with three ships, seuen boats, commodities to trade, haruest newly gathered, eight weekes prouision of corne and meale, about fīue hundred persons, three hundred muskets, shot, powder, and match, with armes for more than we had. The saluages, their language and habitation, well knowne to two hundred expert souldiers ; nets for fishing, tooles of all sorts, apparel to supply their wants : six mares and a horse, fīue or six hundred swine, many more poultry, what was brought or bred, but victuall there remained.

“ Hauing spent some fīue yeares, and more than fīue hundred pounds in procuring the Letters Patents and set-

ting forward, and neere as much more about *New England*, &c. Thus these nineteene yeares I haue here and there not spared any thing according to my abilitie, nor the best aduice I could, to perswade how those strange miracles of misery might haue been prevented,* which lamentable experience plainly taught me must of necessitie insue, but few would beleene me till now they haue too dearly paid for it. Wherefore hitherto I haue rather left all than undertake impossibilities, or any more such costly tasks at such chargeable rates: for in neither of those two countries haue I one foot of land, nor the very house I builded, nor the ground I digged with my owne hands, nor euen any content or satisfaction at all, and though I see ordinarily those two countries shared before me by them that neither haue them nor know them, but by my descriptions: yet that doth not so much trouble me, as to heare and see those contentions and diuisions which will hazard if not mine the prosperitie of *Virginia*, if present remedy bee not found, as they haue hindred many hundreds, who would haue beene there ere now, and make them yet that are willing to stand in a demurre.”

In the account of the *Summer Isles*, or Bermuda, there are some curious anecdotes: one of these contains some circumstances of horreur, that can hardly be surpassed: “In the month of March, a time most subject of all others to such tempests, on a Friday, there went seuen men in a boat of two or three tunnes to fish. The morning being faire, so eager were they of their journey, some went fasting; neither carried they either meat or drinke with them, but a few *Palmeta* berries; but being at their fishing place some foure leagues from the shore, such a tempest arose, they were quickly driven from the sight of land in an ouergrown sea, despairing of all hope, onely committing themselves to God’s mercy, let the boat driue which way shee would. On Sunday, the storm being somewhat abated, they hoysted saile as they thought towards the Island. In the euening it grew starke calme; so that being too weake to use their oares they lay adrift that night. The next

* He here alludes to the calamities which were experienced after he left the country, owing to the mismanagement of those who were in power.

morning *Andrew Hilliard*, for now all his companions were past strength either to help him or themselves, before a small gale of wind spread his saile againe. On Teusday one died whom they threw ouerboard. On Wednesday three. And on Thursday at night the sixth. All these but the last were buried by *Hilliard* in the sea, for so weake hee was growne hee could not turne him ouer as the rest, whereupon hee stripped him, ripping up his belly with his knife, throwing his bowels into the water, hee spread his body abroad tilted open with a stick, and so let it lie as a cistern to receiue some lucky raine water, and this God sent him presently after, so that in one small shoure hee recovered about foure spoonefulls of raine water to his vn-speakable refreshment; he also preserved about half a pint of blood in a shooe, which he did sparingly drink of to moist his mouth: two several days he fed on his flesh, to the quantity of a pound, on the eleuenth day from his losing the sight of land, two flying fishes fals in his boat whose warme iucie blood hee sucked to his great comfort. But within an houre after to his greater comfort you will not doubt, he once againe descried the land, and within foure houres after was cast vpon a rocke neere to Port Royall, where his boat was presently split in pieces, but himselfe though extremely weake, made shift to clamber vp so steepe and high a rocke, as would haue troubled the ablest man in the isle to haue done that by day hee did by night.

“Being thus astride on a rocke, the tumbling sea had got such possession in his braines, that a good while it was before his giddy head would suffer him to venture vpon the forsaking it: towards the morning he craules ashore, and then to his accomplished ioy discernes where hee is, and trauels half a day without any refreshment than water, whereof wisely and temperately he stinted himselfe, otherwise certainly hee had drunke his last. In which case hee attaines a friend’s house; where at the first they took him for a ghost, but at last acknowledged and received him with ioy, his story after some houres of recouery of strength to tell it heard out with admiration: hee was not long after conueyed to the towne, where he received his former health, and was liuing in the yeere 1622.”

Another curious account is given of the voyage of five individuals from the Island of Bermuda, who resolving at all hazards to escape from the tyranny and cruelty of the Governour, adventured in a small boat across the Atlantick, and arrived safe in Ireland. This is doubtless the most remarkable instance on record of a successful attempt to perform this voyage in so small a vessel. "So it was that five of them, seeing by no means they could get passage for England, resolved to vndergoe all hazards but they would make an escape from such seruitude. The cheif mariner and plotter of this businesse, was *Richard Sanders* and his confederates, *William Goodwin* a ship carpenter, *Thomas Harrison* a ioyner, *James Barker*, a gentleman, and *Henry Puet*. These repairing to the Gouvernour, and with pleasing insinuations told him, if hee would allow them but things necessary, they would build him a boat, of two or three tunnes with a close decke, should goe a fishing in all weathers. The Gouvernour half proud that hee had brought his men to so good a passe, as he conceiued, to offer themselues to so necessary a worke; instantly with all willingnesse furnished them with all things they could desire, and many faire promises to encourage them to performe it with all expedition. Having made choice of a place most free from molestation, they went forward with that expedition that in a short time shee was brought to perfection. By this time, the ship that brought the Gouvernour, being ready to depart, hee sends a lusty gänge to goe fetch his new boat to carry him aboard, but arriuing at the place where she was built, they could heare no more of her, but she was gone the last euening to sea, to try how she would saile. Much search and dispute was where this boat should be: but at last they found diuers letters in the cabins, to this effect, directed to the Gouvernour and other their friends: that their hard and bad vsage was so intolerable, and their hope so small euer againe to see their country, or be deliuered from such seruitude, they did rather chuse to put themselues in that desperate hazard to goe for England, in which if they miscarried, as it was much to be mistrusted, their liues and bloods should be required at their hands who were the cause. A compasse diall *Barker* had borrowed of Master *Hues*, to whom hee writ, that as hee had often perswaded them to patience, and that God would pay

them though none did: he must now be contented with the loss of his diall, with his own doctrine. Such leasure they found to be merry, when in the eye of reason they were marching into a most certaine ruine. The Gouvernour being thus satisfied of their escape, extreemly threatened them no lesse than a hanging, but the stormes of the ocean they now more feared than him; good prouision by bartering they had got from the ship, where *Goodwin* in a brauado told the mariners, though he could not be permitted to goe with them, yet peradventure he might be in England before them, whereat the master and his mate laughed merrily. But hauing beene now vnder saile three weekes, the winds so fauored them, they had felt nothing of what they had cause to feare: then a blustering gale blowing in their teeth, put them to much extremity for diuers dayes, then becoming more gentle away they passed prosperously some eight or ten dayes more, till meeting a French Piccaroune of whom they desired succour, hee like himself tooke from them what hee liked, leauing them not so much as a crossestaffe to obserue withall, and so cast them off: their course still they continued till their victualls began to fall to the lowest ebbe; and the very knees of their small vessell were halfe hewed away for firewood. At last to their infinite ioy they arriued in *Ireland*, where the Earl of *Tomund* honorably entertained them, and caused the boat to be hung vp for a monument, and well she might, for she had sailed more than 3300 miles by a right line throw the maine sea, without any sight of land, and I think since God made the world, the like nauigation was neuer done, nor heard of. This fortunate *Sanders* going to the *East-Indies*, in the rifling some ships there tooke, it was his chance to buy an old chest, for three or foure shillings, but because it wanted a key hee repented his bargaine, and would gladly haue sold it againe for lesse. A certaine time it lay tossed to and fro as a thing hee little regarded, but at last hauing little to doe, hee broke it open, where he found a thousand pounds sterling, or so much gold as bought him in *England* a good estate, which leauing with his wife he returned againe to the *East-Indies*."

One of the most animated parts of this work, is that in which he strives to rouse the publick, to undertake the colonizing of New-England. An extract from this will serve

to give a higher idea of his style, than the passages before quoted. "Who can desire more content that hath small meanes, or but onely his merit to aduance his fortunes, than to tread and plant that ground he hath planted by the hazard of his life; if hee haue but the taste of virtue and magnanimity, what to such a minde can bee more pleasant than planting and building a foundation for his posterity, got from the rude earth by God's blessing and his owne industry without preiudice, to any, if hee haue any grain of faith or zeal in religion, what can hee do lesse hurtful to any, or more agreeable to God, than to seek to conuert those poore salvages to knowe Christ and humanity, whose labours with discretion will triple requite thy charge and paine; what so truly sutes with honour and honesty, as the discovering things unknowne, erecting townes, peopling countries, informing the ignorant, reforming things uniuert, teaching vertue and gaine to our native mother country; a kingdom to attend her, finde employment for those that are idle because they know not what to doe: so farre from wronging any, as to cause posterity to remember thee, and remembering thee, euer honour that remembrance with praise. Consider what were the beginnings and endings of the monarchies of the Chaldeans, the Syrians, the Grecians and Romans, but this one rule; what was it they would not do for the good of their common weale, or their mother city? For example, *Rome*, what made her such a monarchesse, but onely the aduentures of her youth, not in riots at home, but in dangers abroad, and the iustice and judgement out of their experiences when they grew aged; what was their ruine and hurt but this, the excesse of idleness, the fondness of parents, the want of experience in Maiestrates, the admiration of their undeserued honours, the contempt of true merit, their uniuert jealousies, their politicke incredulities, their hypocritically seeming goodnesse and their deeds of secret lewdnesse; in fine, growing onely formall temporists, all that their predecessors got in many yeares they lost in a few daies: those by their paines and vertues become Lords of the world, they by their ease and vices became slaves to their seruants; this is the difference betwixt the vse of armes in the field, and on the monuments of stones, the golden age, and the leaden age, prosperity and misery, justice

and corruption, substance and shadowes, words and deeds, experience and imagination, making common weales, and marring common weales, the fruits of vertue and the conclusions of vice.

“ Then who would live at home idly, or think in himselfe any worth to liue, onely to eat, drinke and sleepe and so die ; or by consuming that carelessly, his friends got worthily, or by vsing that miserably that maintained vertue honestly, or for being descended nobly, and pine with the vaine vaunt of great kindred in penury, or to maintaine a silly shew of bravery, toile out thy heart, soule and time basely ; by shifts, tricks, cards, and dice, or by relating newes of other men’s actions, sharke here and there for a dinner or supper, deceive thy friends by faire promises and dissimulation, in borrowing where thou never meanest to pay, offend the lawes, surfet with excesse, burthen thy countrie, abuse thy selfe, despaire in want, and then couzen thy kindred, yea, even thy own brother, and wish thy parents death, (I will not say damnation,) to have their estates, though thou seest what honours and rewards the world yet hath for them, that will seek them and worthily deserve them.

“ I would bee sorry to offend, or that any should mistake my honest meaning ; for I wish good to all, hurt to none ; but rich men for the most part, are growne to that dotage through their pride in their wealth, as though there were no accident could end it or their life.

“ And what hellish care doe such take to make it their owne misery and their countries spoile, especially when there is most need of their emploiment, drawing by all manner of inuentions from the Prince and his honest subiects, euen the vital spirits of their powers and estate : as if their baggs or braggs were so powerful a defence, the malicious could not assault them, when they are the onely bait to cause vs not only to bee assaulted, but betrayed and murdered in our owne security ere we will perceive it.”

An account of the late revolution in New England, together with the declaration of the gentlemen, merchants and inhabitants of Boston, and the country adjacent, April 18, 1689. Written by Mr. Nathaniel Byfield,

a merchant of Bristol in New England, to his friends in London. Licensed June 27, 1689. I. Fraser. London, printed for R. Chiswell, St. Paul's Church yard, 1689.

This pamphlet contains the declaration of the leading people, who deposed and made prisoner, Sir Edmund Andross, for his arbitrary and oppressive proceedings. It also contains the summons to the Governour, and a minute relation of the circumstances attending his arrest, and is, therefore, a useful document in the history of these proceedings.

The people's right to election, or alteration of government in Connecticut, argued in a letter, by Gershom Bulkely, Esq. one of their Majesties justices of the peace in the county of Hartford. Together with a letter to the said Bulkeley, from a friend of his in the Bay. To which is added, the writing delivered to James Russell, Esq. of Charlestown, warning him and others concerned, not to meet to hold a Court at Cambridge, within the county of Middlesex. By Thomas Greaves, Esq. Judge of their Majesties Inferiour Court of Please, and one of their Majesties Justices of the Peace within the said County. And also his answer to Mr. Broadstreet; and the gentlemen met at the Townhouse in Boston concerning the same. Published for the information and satisfaction of their Majesties loyall (but abused) subjects in New England. Philadelphia, printed by the assignees of William Bradford, Anno. 1689.

These gentlemen, Mr. Bulkeley and Mr. Greaves, were two magistrates appointed by the tyrannical Governour Andross; and their sentiments of government were worthy of their patron. Mr. Bulkeley's argument goes to the greatest lengths in enforcing the most arbitrary principles of government, and the duty of passive obedience. His pamphlet is written with very considerable ability, and makes the most of an unsound doctrine. It may be easily supposed how unpopular such a work must have been among a

people, intent upon self government, and as it was printed at Philadelphia, it is probable that no printer in New-England could be found to publish it.

FOR THE NORTH-AMERICAN JOURNAL.

An Embassy sent to the Pope, from the University of Heidelberg. Extract from a letter.

IN the year 1622, when the war of the reformation was raging in Germany, the Bavarians came to Heidelberg, and thinking it a great shame the hereticks should remain in the possession of so many fine MSS, they took them all very quietly away, and soon after to prevent all such accidents for the future, made a formal present of them to his holiness at Rome. There they have ever since remained on the shelves of the Vatican, and have served to fill many a bitter page of the travels of the German men of letters who have visited Rome. At length, in this day of universal reckoning and restitution, the professors, &c. at Heidelberg, thought they ought to come in for their portion of justice, and sent one of their members, not so much to claim the MSS as stolen goods, as to appeal to the Pope's generosity and gratitude, and move him by persuasion, to return them. The ambassador was very kindly received, and the Pope summoned his council to consider the claim; in which it is understood he personally favoured it. The decision however, was, that all the MSS relating to Germany, particularly its antiquities, history, literature, &c. should be returned, without inquiry into the question of right, but as a testimony of the gratitude of the Pope, for his obligation to the German nation, in what they had done to restore him to his prerogatives; and that the Latin and Greek MSS, &c. should remain, as he considered them the property of the world, rather than of any individual people. This does not appear to be unsatisfactory to the corporation who sent the embassy. They have recovered by it, about one thousand very curious and precious documents for their early history and literature; and though